The Guardian

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It's All Politics

By Kenny Stuart
Vice-President, Seattle Fire Fighters Union Local 27

Seattle Fire Fighters and Seattle Police Officers have a long history of working together to serve the citizens we are sworn to protect. As public safety unions we can also work together to support and protect our own members. It is in this spirit, and in cooperation with SPOG President Rich O'Neill, that I would like to share with you Local 27's experience and approach to political action.

In 1999 the Seattle Fire Fighters Negotiations Team traveled to each of the West Coast 7 (WC7)* cities and met with Union Officers from each Fire Department Local to get a firsthand understanding of each Union's contract as well as any other relevant information that would assist us in negotiating our 2000-2004 contract. One important discovery on this trip was the significant role of political action in every one of these unions. Each union in turn told us how important their political involvement had been to accomplishing their objectives. They described many impressive gains in contract negotiations, pension improvements, and staffing & deployment. They explained how their political activity influenced the outcomes in many, if not all, of these areas. And when we compared our political action to the political efforts of these cities, we noticed three things: they were putting substantially more resources into politics than we were; they were doing it with the support of their members; and it was paying off.

When we returned to Seattle we concluded that if becoming more actively involved in the political process by supporting and developing strong relationships with politicians works for the WC7 cities, it could work for us. It makes sense. Our profession is completely dependent on politicians. Public Safety departments have to operate within the policies and budgets decided by elected officials who have their own agendas. They make important decisions regarding our contract negotiations, healthcare, job-related injuries and illnesses, safety, retirement, staffing, department policies, civilianization, facilities, apparatus, etc. based on a variety of interests, information, and pressures. It's all politics.

So we can either cross our fingers and hope they make the best decisions for us and our families, or we can work to have some influence over these decisions.

Since our WC7 journey, Local 27 has redoubled its efforts to emphasize our political influence and increase the support and participation of our members. The result has been a surge in total contributions from $1,000 a month to over $6,000 a month. We have also seen the number of contributors expand from 112 to over 600. It is also without question that Seattle Fire Fighters are better off since 1999 and more prepared for any future challenges we may face.

Now we are not so naïve to think that miracles will happen overnight, but we are confident that over time Seattle Fire Fighters will do much better in terms of compensation, benefits, pension, and safety if we put greater emphasis on political action than if we abstain from the political process or even just dabble in it. (†Effective political action does require both hard work by those selected to lead this endeavor, and the financial support and participation of our members. Still, the benefits outweigh the risks. Ultimately, we believe, as do our seven comparable cities on the west coast, that this strategy puts us in the best position to support our families, protect ourselves, and serve the public.

* (The WC7 are seven cities on the west coast normally accepted for comparison to Seattle for contract negotiations. They are: Long Beach, Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco, and Portland.)

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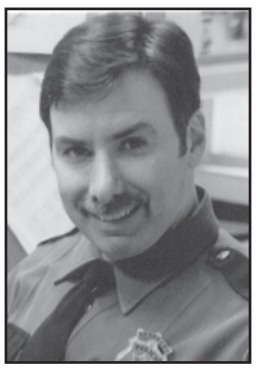
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President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



There are many topics to discuss this month and I want to start with the most important. Police work is a stressful and dangerous occupation. It is not an occupation that 'anyone" can perform. Seattle is not a sleepy "Northwest Mayberry." It is a big city with all the problems and dangerous crime that are associated with a big city. This fact was driven home recently in the North Precinct. The first week of January, two of the North Precinct Anti-Crime Team officers encountered an ex-con in a stolen car. As they approached this criminal, he chose to try and use his car to run down one of the officers. Fortunately, the officers were able to react quickly and stop this deadly threat by firing and hitting the suspect. The suspect was taken into custody and will face charges when he recovers. Officer Thomas Hanley and Officer Darren Long were able to avoid tragedy and go home to their families that night. Later in the month, Officer Troy Swanson and Officer Jon Huber (also North ACT) were patrolling Aurora Avenue when they saw a man with a gun threatening another male. These brave officers stopped and confronted the armed suspect. Shots were fired and Officer Swanson was wounded. The suspect (another ex-con) was dead at the scene. The man who had been threatened by the suspect credited the officers with saving his life. The good news is that Officer Swanson should make a full recovery.

Officer Swanson and Officer Huber are true heroes! Their unselfish actions saved the life of a citizen! Last month, the officers of the North ACT demonstrated what each and every police officer may be called upon to do and that is to stand up in the face of danger and confront those who are determined to hurt another. As I said before, this is not an occupation that "anyone" can perform. The citizens of Seattle are very fortunate to have officers like Officer Hanley, Officer Long, Officer Huber, and Officer Swanson serving them in this community.

The Guild is very busy with the ongoing contract negotiations. We are scheduled to meet every Thursday for the next few months. The sessions are under the direction of a state-assigned mediator and for the most part are progressing in a cordial and professional manner. I need to remind you that the process is confidential. No one, regardless of their rank, should be discussing the specific details that are talked about at the table. If this rule was not in place, the process of negotiating would quickly deteriorate. I have promised that I will keep the membership as informed as possible without compromising confidentiality. If it is in the current contract, there is a good chance we are discussing it. We are discussing many issues which include Geo-Policing and possible new patrol shifts. We are discussing wages, benefits, discipline and transfer issues. We are not close to a deal! I am hopeful that we will eventually reach a deal and at that time, we will present the details in a fair and neutral manner, so that each member can make their own decisions. If we do not reach an agreement and the mediator decides we have "hit the wall", then the mediator will certify us for binding arbitration. Both sides would present "their cases" and the civilian arbitrator would decide the issues. Arbitration is not something to fear and SPOG has the resources to go forward. Arbitration offers no guarantees either. Arbitrators stay in business by giving each side "a little" of what they want. Rarely in this state, will an arbitrator give one side everything they want. The SPOG bargaining team is putting in many hours in order to achieve a fair contract that will improve the lives of all SPOG members. Please respect the process and refuse to take part in the rumor mongering.

As this edition reaches you, Director Sam Pailca of the OPA will be leaving SPD. I met with the director recently and discussed many OPA issues. Being "the first" in any newly created position will always produce great challenges. It is no secret that I have vocally disagreed with many of her decisions over the past six years, but I do appreciate that the director always returned my calls and was available for a cordial discussion. I wish her well in her future life endeavors. We will meet with the new director when that decision is made.

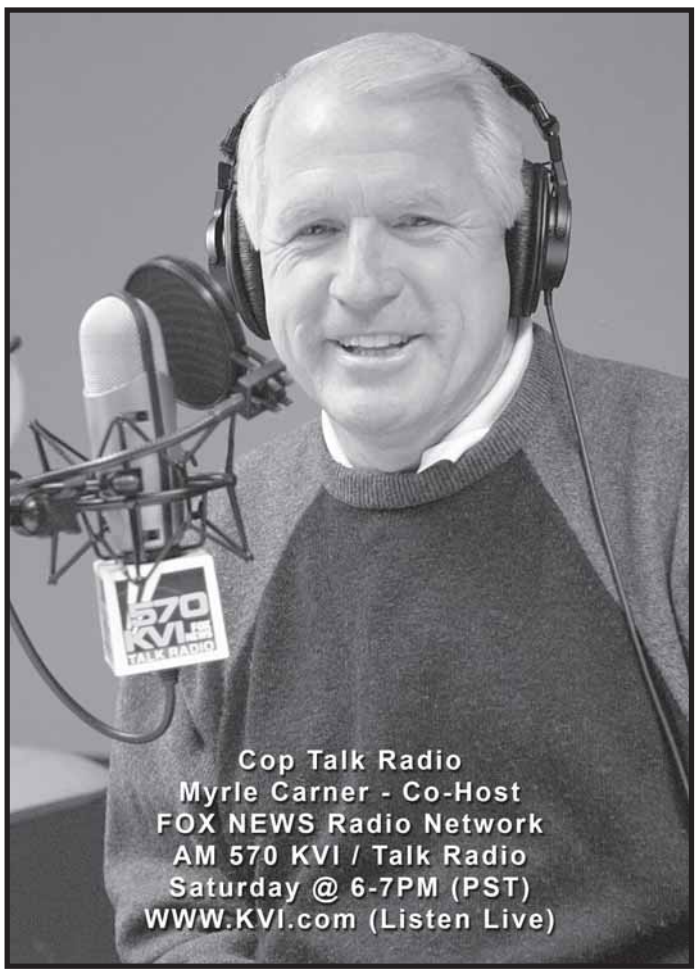
Speaking of OPA, I have to comment on a recent trend that I find disgusting. I touched on this last month, but it needs to be repeated. OPA is not the venue for performance-related issues. OPA is not the venue to try and get someone transferred. Many supervisors (and sadly some SPOG members) think that OPA is the only way to get someone transferred. That is WRONG! The contract details that someone can be moved for poor performance. A supervisor is required to tell the employee about their deficiency and give them time to correct it. We also have a performance review process. If someone is doing their work and staying out of trouble….LEAVE THEM ALONE.

If your personalities clash…GET OVER IT! And just a word to sergeants: You are NOT management! You are all SPOG members! Handle your own squads and the different issues that arise! Remember that you could be required to defend your performance evaluation before the Performance Review Board if the officer contests it! You may also be called to testify before the Civil Service Commission or the Discipline Review Board if the OPA matter gets appealed. If your allegation or documentation is weak, it will be exposed. As we learned in Sunday School, if you live in glass house, be very careful when you start hurling stones! I apologize to the supervisors who do things the right way, but if you sat in on a few of the OPA interviews recently, you would understand my passion.

As you read this, the SPOG elections will be over. I congratulate all the winners and commend them for their dedication to SPOG. They strive to improve the working conditions for all us. Please get to know your SPOG representatives and let them know you appreciate their efforts!

Lastly, the Political Action Campaign will begin shortly. SPOG reps will be meeting with each of you to discuss the campaign and to solicit your support. Politics drives everything in this city. SPOG must be engaged in the process. We need your assistance by voluntarily contributing to the PAC. Help us get our message out on your behalf!

Be safe and watch out for each other



Attention Family Members of SPD Officers

By Sally Emerick and Dusty Pruitt, Families in Policing Committee

Remember the days when your Cop was new to the job? The feeling that police work was more interesting and exciting than anything your family life had to offer. As years go by cynicism and sometimes anger go side by side with the joy of a job well loved. These and other issues all have an effect on the everyday lives of cop families away from the job. On March 14th Dr. Kevin Gilmartin author of Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement, a Guide for Officers and Their Families will speak to family members about the common experiences we all have with the cops we love.

Dr. Kevin Gilmartin spent twenty years working in law enforcement before beginning a consulting career as a behavioral scientist. As a consultant, he works with law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and Canada. He is a former recipient of the International Association of Chiefs of Police/ Parade Magazine Police Officer service award for his work in hostage negotiations and police psychology. He will be sharing his observations and experiences of the issues that arise from the unique stresses of life as a police officer and that of living with one.

Dr. Gilmartin will be speaking during the day on March 14th at the Women in Policing seminar for Seattle Police employees; and at 6:30 pm that same evening at SPD's Training Unit in the Park 90/5 facility for police family members. Parking is free and light refreshments will be served. Please try to join us, as it should be a very interesting and informative night. If you have questions or would like to hold a seat you can contact us at familiesinpolicing@yahoo.com or at 253-335-0742 (Dusty Pruitt).

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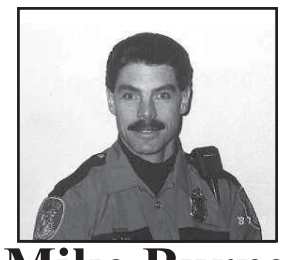


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This Isn't a Soap Opera

By Sergeant Roger Dixon, Vice President

A change in attitude and direction in the officer and sergeant ranks has resulted in increased complaints within the SPD. In the recent past we have seen an increase in complaints regarding sergeant versus officer, officer versus officer, officer versus sergeant, and any combination one could imagine.

There are enough examples over the past few years that I consider worth comment;

- An officer makes comments that the sergeant does not consider professional so the sergeant threatens officer with insubordination charges.
- A sergeant directs an officer to complete a task and the officer fails to do so. The sergeant takes the issue to the lieutenant.
- A sergeant has issues with an officer in the squad, and rather than tackle the problem head on the sergeant keeps "book" over a period of time.
- An officer takes exception to the work ethic of someone else in the squad. Rather than approach the individual the officer goes to the sergeant.

The common theme in these examples is performance and attitude related issues, something we are seeing all too often. I am not advocating that the big picture issues be ignored, nor am I saying that true misconduct be swept away. On the contrary, those isolated instances must be captured and see the light of day to everyone's benefit.

What really takes me back is the apparent inability of a few members to establish and pursue a course of positive work relations. A sergeant is not a deity to be worshiped, but rather a facilitator who enables officers to do their job in an atmosphere that makes them want to be there. The sergeants I fondly remember were the ones an officer did not want to disappoint. It wasn't about fear or career, but a reflection on the trust the sergeant and officer had in each other. That says a lot for their people skills and leadership, and about the officer's maturity.

As troublesome is the inability of some officers to approach other officers when issues develop. I mentioned earlier that in some instances the sergeant is the first stop in the shopping list of resolution. A novel concept would be to tackle the problem directly, or am I missing something here?

When all of this has come up for discussion the SPD Manual is rolled out, pointing to the mandate that directs REPORTING through the chain of command. That directive has a lengthy list of what must be REPORTED. I have yet to find a section that prohibits or suggests that attitude and performance issues cannot be addressed person to person, rather than person to system.

The other dynamic is the SPOG. Every complaint generated through the OPA-IIS system lands at the SPOG office where it must be addressed. And yes, that involves time and money, resources you are paying for. Would you rather have your union leadership working issues that involve all the members, or in the weeds sorting out problems related to who said what, when they said it, and why they could not get along?

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Officer of the Month

By Officer Christopher Hall, West Precinct

The SPOG Officers of the Month for January 2007 are Acting Sergeant Joel Guay, Officers Courtney Harris, Eric Holland, Jose Silva, John O'Neil of the East Precinct and Detectives Shandy Cobane and Thomas Mooney of the Gang Unit, as nominated by Lieutenant Scott Bachler for their response to an active shooter incident at 18th Avenue and East Union Street.

On December 9th, 2006, a call came out that a woman had been killed in an apartment in the East Precinct. Acting Sergeant Joel Guay, Officers Courtney Harris, Eric Holland, Jose Silva, John O'Neil and Detectives Shandy Cobane and Thomas Mooney were among the first to respond. They quickly determined that there had been a shooting and that the event may possibly still be in progress. While on scene, more shots were heard. They heard a child crying and decided to form a contact team, as this was a possible active shooter incident. They formed up an advanced on the apartment in question. They found a victim down in the doorway, blood in the hallway and a neighbor watching with her child from their apartment door. With appropriate cover and using team tactics, they evacuated the down victim, crying child and neighbors while covering the suspect's open door. Additional shots were heard during the rescue, but the officers maintained their composure and completed their mission. No more shots were heard, so they continued covering the suspect's door and evacuated the rest of the floor. SWAT and HNT responded, and when SWAT made entry, they found the suspect/ gunman dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. Lieutenant Bachler noted in his nomination, "During a tour of Iwo Jima, describing the action of US Marines, Admiral Nimitz remarked, 'uncommon valor was a common virtue.' I think that the physical courage displayed during this incident was not just uncommon, it was remarkable, and it was displayed equally by every employee present."

Also nominated this month:

· Officers Eric Michl of the Traffic Unit and Martin Harris of the West Precinct were nominated by Officer Steven Rice for their life saving actions with a suicidal woman on the Aurora Bridge. On December 7, 2006, Officer Michl and Harris were among the contingent that responded to a call of a person over the rail on the Aurora Bridge. Officer Michl located the woman and was able to engage her in conversation. This distracted her enough that Officer Harris was able to grab the woman and pull her back to safety.

· Officers Ernie Hall, Trung Nguyen and Steven Rice of the North Precinct were nominated by Officer John Evanson for their work on an in-progress burglary call. On November 30, 2006, these officers responded to a burglary in progress where the three suspects were possibly armed from a previous burglary and had arrived in a stolen car. The suspects all ran and these officers began their diligent search of the area. Officers Nguyen and Kim located one suspect and arrested him. Officer Hall located the second suspect and arrested him. While driving that suspect to the precinct, Officer Hall alertly spotted the third suspect and arrested him without incident. These officers took the investigation a step further by contacting the parents of the juvenile suspects and obtaining consent to search from them. They recovered a bulletproof vest, laptops, computers, I-Pods and stolen checks. Seven additional stolen vehicles were also recovered as a part of this investigation.

This month's nominations display the type of hard work, personal courage and selfless bravery that occurs every day. Congratulations to all of the nominees. Stay safe.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

One of our most deadly years has come to an end. Losing our brother and sister officers is truly a dark time and reminds us that time is not guaranteed to anyone. It's an opportunity to bond and remember to cherish what we have.

It occurred to me recently that during every fallen officer incident that many things are just taken care of behind the scenes. Families are taken care of, and officers and command staff come together and get the job done during the darkest hours.

Very specifically, I want to thank each and every member of the SPD Honor Guard, past and present for his or her tireless work. The Honor Guard, lead by Sergeant Roger Dixon and Officer T.J. Havenar tirelessly work from the time the tragic incident occurs through the end of the internment. The Honor Guard participants often work with little sleep and without taking days off putting their regular life on hold to take care of each critical incident. During each ceremony, the Honor Guard represents the department and our fallen officers with professionalism and are very good at what they do.

Thank you for a job well done, as you are the light during our darkest hours.

Sergeant Paul Pendergrass

Happy Anniversary





The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of February!

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Officer Chuck Farrell, Harbor
Officer T.J. Havenar, North Precinct
Officer Erik Johnson, North Precinct

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Do You Feel Safe in Your Neighborhood

By Seattle City Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck,
Public Safety Committee Member

The Charter of the City of Seattle states that "there shall be maintained adequate police protection in each district of the City".

Do you feel we have enough police officers to keep our neighborhoods safe?

In September of this year, Mayor Nickels' delivered his proposed budget to the City Council. Despite a strong local economy and budget revenue forecast with millions of dollars in new revenue, the package did not include funding for one new sworn position in the Seattle Police Department.

We must be safe, right?

The growing numbers of crime victims in Seattle neighborhoods tell another story.

Last year in Seattle there were 47,600 serious crimes reported to police, including 25 murders, 139 rapes, 558 armed robberies, 2,344 aggravated assaults, 9,558 auto thefts, 6,756 burglaries and 155 arsons. Yet sadly, only 15% of these crimes resulted in arrests according to the Police Department's own 2005 statistics. This means that thousands of serious crimes went unchecked and without consequences for the criminals, who remain free to go on perpetrating more crimes against citizens all over Seattle.

For property crimes in particular, including burglaries and auto thefts, arrests are falling below 10 percent. Recently Chief Gil Kerlikowske reported that, "In comparison with the 25 largest U.S. jurisdictions (including four of the West Coast cities), the property crime rate (burglary, auto theft, and theft of property) in Seattle ranks second only to Memphis, Tennessee." Even worse is that, according to Kerlikowske, "Aggravated assaults with a firearm increased by 25% in 2005. Aggravated assaults with a firearm through September of 2006 are up 26% compared with last year. Robberies are up 5% this year."

The problem is not that the police are not doing their jobs. They are. However, our police are seeing more and more of their time devoted to responding to the ever-increasing number of emergency 911 calls. To make an arrest, police must have time to investigate. To deter crime from even happening, visible, proactive community policing is needed. Yet after service calls, administrative duties, and court appearances are accounted for, police have only a fracture of their time left (less than 30 percent) for proactive crime prevention efforts.

While the public safety challenges grow, the "thin blue line" is thinner than ever. With only about 2.22 officers per 1000 residents (and dropping as we continue to grow by over 5,000 more residents per year), Seattle ranks on the low end of the scale compared to most other American cities our size and with similar public safety challenges such as a large daytime workforce population, tourism, professional sports, entertainment and a thriving nightlife scene. And the number of sworn officers, currently about 1275, hasn't changed much in over 35 years despite our growth in population and increasing public safety challenges. As few as 80 officers on active patrol on a given day in Seattle—now does that make you feel safe?

An important part of the solution to increasing public safety must be to add significantly more police patrol officers, which is why I first proposed a plan, beginning with this budget cycle, to add 50 new officers per year, for the next five years for a total of 250 new sworn officers. Even Chief Kerlikowske says we need an increase in new officers. According to a recent statement by the Chief: "A comprehensive public safety plan can only be successful if it has a firm foundation comprised of an adequate number of police officers. Providing additional officers will allow SPD to stop being reactive and give officers the necessary time during their shifts to prevent crime and respond to neighborhood concerns." Clearly, we cannot achieve our public safety goals without adequate staffing.

Unfortunately we were not able to reach the goal of adding 100 new officers in this budget, but the proposal sparked a citywide debate over how large a police force is needed, now and for the future. The good news is that in addition to the 30 new officers approved for the next two years, the City Council passed a comprehensive public safety funding package that is intended to help reduce crime through prevention and early intervention strategies such as domestic violence prevention, programs to steer young people away from a path of crime before its too late, and more support our neighborhood crime prevention community network. The overall package provides nearly $6 million in new funding directly for public safety.

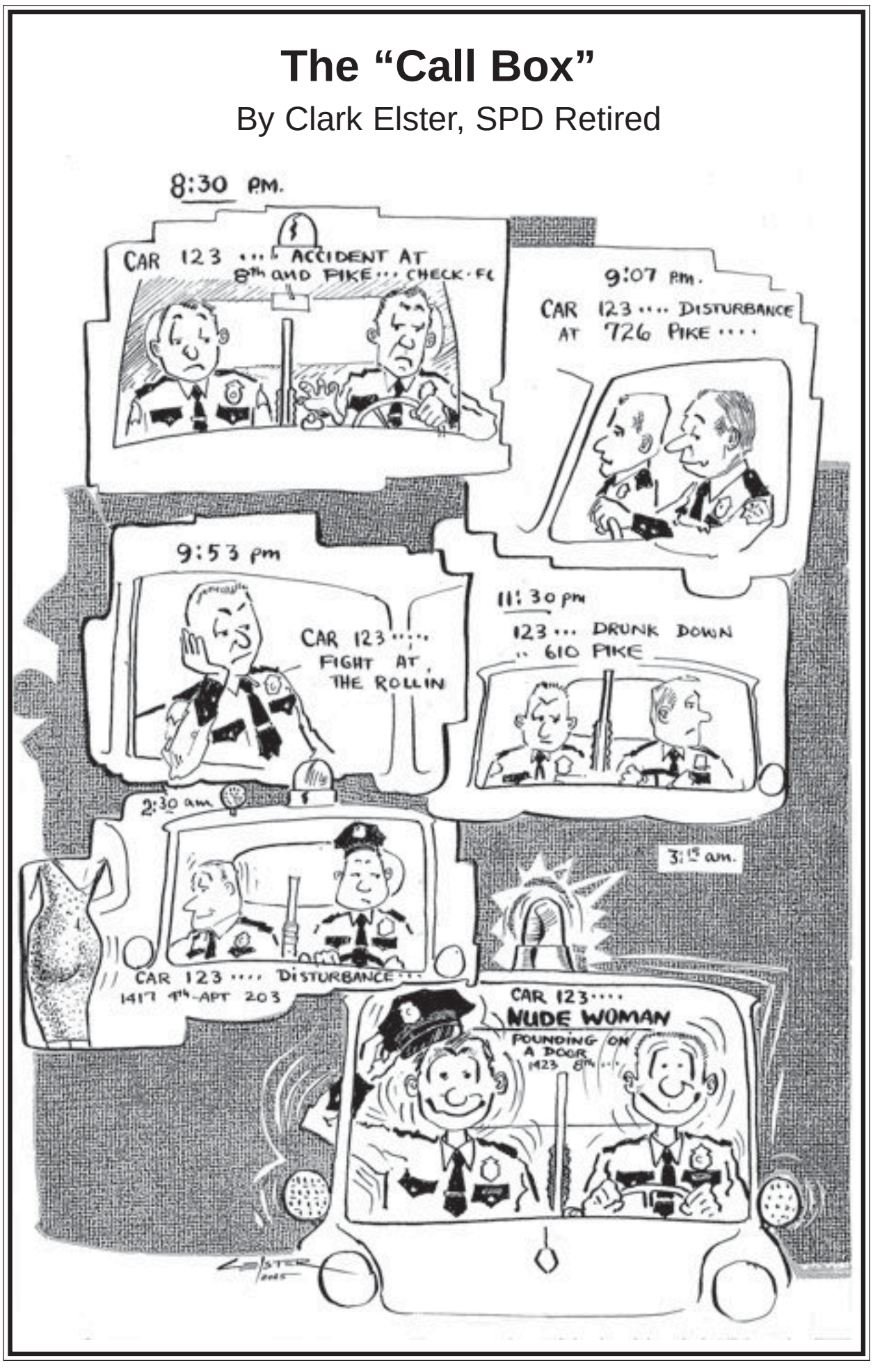
The Council also passed a resolution, which I co-sponsored, that requests the Mayor to develop a first ever, five year strategic plan to optimize police staffing, measure policing performance, and improve public safety outcomes. We have asked the Mayor to submit this plan to the council by March 31, 2007. We have also asked the Seattle Police Department (SPD) to begin reporting monthly to the City Council's Public Safety Committee, on crime trends throughout the city, precinct by precinct, and SPD's specific efforts to reduce crime.

With these important actions, the City Council has launched a new public safety initiative to guide future policy and budget decisions around accountability, performance and results. It will be up to the Mayor now to develop a specific plan of action, and with Council approval, begin implementing it to make our city safer in the years ahead.

Seattle cannot claim to be a great city unless it is a truly safe city. Our neighborhoods deserve no less.

The "Call Box"

By Clark Elster, SPD Retired



History Corner

By *The Guardian* Staff

This is a reprint of the President's Message from the July 1989 *Guardian* by then President Bob Shilling.

In December of 1988, the Seattle City Council commissioned Carroll Buracker and Associates to do a thorough study of the Seattle Police Department. This was the so-called "Police Management Study". The City Council gave Mr. Buracker and his team the following tasks to study and report on:
1. Current law enforcement climate, SPD deployment practices, and effectiveness measures.
2. Alternative deployment strategies, techniques, and related technologies.
3. Analysis of costs and benefits of alternative deployment strategies.
4. Recommend alternative deployment strategies and techniques.
5. Process of establishing public safety priorities.
6. Planning and evaluation processes utilized by other jurisdictions.
7. Develop and recommend planning and evaluation process.
8. Personnel management.
9. Training.

Just prior to the study being commissioned, the City Council granted 24 new positions to patrol to replenish the 24 bodies taken to form the precinct anti-crime teams. Even though PCAM projections showed that we needed 48 additional bodies just to **keep up** with the expected calls for service in 1989, the Council made it perfectly clear that they would provide **no more positions** until the study was completed.

For the last couple of years both Chief Fitzsimons and I have told the City Council that we can't keep up. We need more police officers to do the job the citizens rightfully expect and deserve. The Council felt that they should have a disinterested third party study the issue to insure they were being fiscally responsible and that manpower was being utilized to its fullest.

Chief Fitzsimons and I welcomed the study because we knew that each of us had been extremely honest with the City Council. We were certain the study would show what we had been saying all along: "We need more personnel". We also knew that Mr. Buracker has a reputation for being pointedly honest in his recommendations. In more that half of the studies done on other police departments by Mr. Buracker and his firm, he recommended cuts in personnel. It was clear Mr. Buracker had a lot of credibility and the Department, the Guild and the City Council all felt comfortable with his selection.

On June 5, 1989, six months after being commissioned to do the study, Mr. Buracker and his team announced the results. The exhaustive report was 300 pages long. (A copy of the 32 page executive summary will be posted in each Guild bulletin board over the next couple of months.) Obviously there is not enough space in this newspaper, let alone my article, to cover all of the recommendations; however, I do want to touch upon a few of the study findings:
1. The Seattle Police Department is not sufficiently staffed to achieve its mission.
2. In an assessment of time available for preventive patrol, a patrol officer in Seattle is either working cases or is unavailable because of other demands, such as court time, for average of 63%.
3. Because of clerical shortages (due to lack of funding), detectives and supervisory officers must perform basic clerical duties. Records processing is backed up to the point of impairing efficiency.
4. The Department has less police officers in 1989 that in 1970. In order to rectify personnel shortages, the Study Team recommends a minimum of 167 additional positions: 79 police officers, 30 detectives, seven sergeants, five lieutenants, four majors, one assistant chief, and 41 civilian employees.
5. An analysis by the Study Team of alternative policing programs in the United States, including on site visits, has revealed that the Seattle Police Department has been a leader in pursuing alternative policing programs for many years.
6. The South Precinct Community Partnership Program has produced significant dividends for the Department and the community Major crime has dropped seven percent in the South Precinct in 1988.
7. The Seattle Police Department is recognized nationally as a very progressive police department. The Chief of Police is recognized as one of the most progressive law enforcement officials in the United States. He has been selected to coordinate the Nation's revision of Uniform Crime Reporting statistics by local, state and federal officials.
8. The Study Team generally found that within the City, including criminal justice agencies, the Department enjoys an excellent reputation.
9. The City of Seattle has one of the best personnel management programs in law enforcement in the United States. Its affirmative action program is clearly the most productive of any observed in the major cities and counties by the study team.
10. The relationship between the Police Guild and the City/Department seems very good. There is an evident need for improved relationships between the City and the Police Management Association.
11. The allocation of space for the Department is very inadequate. There is insufficient work space in the Public Safety Building for employees to work efficiently. In some areas, emergency egress is blocked—a dangerous situation. The City should seriously consider providing either another public safety building or a police administration building. In the meantime, the Vice and Narcotics Division should be relocated to the vacant second floor of the East Precinct building, or comparable space should be found for this important operation.
12. The Department is encouraged to continue its progressive approach of civilianizing personnel in the Communications Division. The additional positions recommended for civilianization within the next year are one lieutenant position and eleven police officer positions: nine police dispatcher positions, the staff officer and the equipment maintenance officer positions.
13. On a long-range basis, the City should consider funding a feasibility study for a helicopter program for the Seattle Police Department.
14. If all the additional positions, equipment and technology are implemented, the costs will approximate $6.7 million. These costs are viewed as the maximum.

City Councilwoman Jane Noland came out swinging in support of the study. She also wanted to pass an emergency resolution to hire 50 additional officers and 12 civilians NOW, while they tried to figure out how to fund the study recommendations. Councilwoman Jeanette Williams agreed. Unfortunately the rest of the City Council did not see it that way. They want to wait until all 1990 budget needs are assessed.

It takes a minimum of seven months from the time an officer is hired until the time he/she is ready for duty. We can't afford to wait. If necessary we should consider a levy or bond issue to fund implementation of the study recommendations NOW, while long term funding solutions are studied. The citizens of this city deserve to be protected on the streets and in their homes. They will support a bond issue or whatever is necessary to accomplish that goal and shame on the City Council if they don't believe it.

Perhaps Mr. Buracker said it best: "In the Study Team's professional judgment, Seattle is at a crossroads relative to public safety. The Department has an excellent reputation throughout the United States and is generally respected by Seattle citizens. The increased crime and workload on the Department has strained the Department's ability to deliver quality services. If the City wants to maintain its reputation for excellence and high quality of life, the Police Department needs to add personnel immediately."

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DEADLINE TO ORDER ~ March 5th

Tired at Training, Part III

An Update on Reforming Our Training Schedule

By Sergeant Ty Elster, Board Position #8

Once again, our department has proven that getting involved is worthwhile! To that end, I think that it's important for everyone to understand that we don't have to accept policies and procedures just because we don't wear a gold badge. If we ever expect things to change, someone has to light the match that starts the fire! This requires at least one person to step up and risk getting burned when the match is lit. Otherwise, change will never occur or at least not at a favorable pace to our membership.

As an example, our Guild members have been instrumental in seeking pay increases in FTO pay outside of the normal bargaining process. They have also been involved with changing and drafting policies and procedures, spearheading remodeling projects, securing funding for various operations and equipment and the list goes on and on. I'm proud to have been part of many of these changes. However, I won't claim most of them because sometimes it's best that the puppet masters don't realize that the puppets are tugging on the strings a little bit. Let's just say that many redundant practices will never be missed.

This all was accomplished because at least one person stood up, and was unwilling to accept the same ol' tired explanation of, "Because that's the way we've always done it." from some commander who thinks that officer safety means to "double cup" at Starbucks. Lets face it, if your back-up weapon is made by IBM and your biggest concern is monitoring MDC messages, making officer's lives easier is not high on your list of priorities.

My latest target was born out of 20 years worth of frustration from having to drag my tired 3rd watch butt down to the Advanced Training Unit for class at 0800. Knowing that the majority of my fellow Guild members despised this practice as well, I set about to provide the department with sufficient evidence that proved that this practice is detrimental and counterproductive. As a result, policy and practice has changed! For the first time, ten Street Skills classes will be conducted at the more 3rd watch friendly hour of 10 o'clock. This is a huge change in mindset for our department and hopefully represents a renewed focus on the employee and his/her welfare.

Within minutes of an MDC message going out to 3rd watch north announcing the new class hours, I was inundated with phone calls and a literal stampede of officers heading toward my desk as everyone scrambled to take advantage of the limited number of 10 o'clock classes. This is the first time that I have ever seen officers get excited about signing up for training and prompted me to ask Deputy Chief Kimerer if he had a hand in approving the new schedule. "We are trying to bring training to the patrol officer instead of bringing the officer to training." Kimerer said as he hinted about things to come.

Originally, I began soliciting our former Captain Mark Evenson for change in the hours of Street Skills last year. He immediately had enthusiasm for the idea, as he has always been an advocate for making life better for the men and women of the department. In our initial conversations, I had suggested to Mark that Street Skills should ideally start at 1200 hours for 3rd watch officers. But, after looking at the overtime dollars that that plan would have generated, he suggested that I would have a better chance of reforming the schedule if we looked at the 10 o'clock start time instead.

After Captain Evenson's departure from the department, Captain Belshay had the final say in whether or not the Advanced Training Unit would approve of the proposed schedule. He in turn, turned to the training unit's supervisors, and gave them ultimate responsibility of deciding on whether to proceed with the plan and if so, how to get it implemented. The training staff itself worked out the nuts and bolts of the plan and was charged with "…making it happen." according to Lieutenant Greg Schmidt who is currently assigned to the training unit.

"I want to hand it to the four training unit sergeants for taking the lead on making this happen." said Lieutenant Schmidt. He went on to say, "The training supervisors had a goal of providing at least ten classes with the later start time of 10 o'clock, and we made sure that this goal was met." Lieutenant Schmidt also gave high praise to the officers assigned to the unit for actually drawing up and reworking the plan before final approval. Lieutenant Schmidt said that the unit's officers worked tirelessly on the project and had to start from scratch at one point when the command staff made the decision to exclude patrol from training during the summer. He also pointed out that the later classes would require some sacrifice for the training unit's officers, as they will be changing their normal schedules to accommodate the later start time. Their willingness to do this is a testament to their professionalism and to their dedication to the men and women in the trenches.

Officer Garry Jackson, also in the training unit, states that the '07 classes have been filling up with relatively few glitches. However, because people started signing up for the classes prior to the official orders being posted, there were a few officers that didn't realize that there were 10 o'clock classes available. Garry later changed their training dates when they discovered their mistake. When asked about scheduling conflicts and changes, Garry said, "For the most part, we are trying to accommodate as many people as we possibly can. And I'm happy to assist anyone who needs the help!"

Change was also influenced by feedback from our members. Lieutenant Schmidt tells me that the training staff reads each one of the evaluations that we fill out. Those evaluations confirmed the need to change the hours of Street Skills.

As you can see, the change of schedule for Street Skills has not been the effort of one person, it has been a collaborative effort, which includes input from our membership, former SPD Captain Evenson, the current training supervisors and the 23 officer/instructors assigned to advanced training. Each of them had their part in fanning the flames of change and deserves our thanks on our next visit to Park-95. They also proved that getting involved is actually worthwhile!

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The Guild actively urges its members to write articles for publication in *The Guardian*. The newspaper cannot survive without membership contributions.

All articles submitted for publication will be accepted subject to editorial review and changes. The editor shall retain the decision to publish, not publish, or edit an article. The editor's decision to publish or not publish an article can be appealed to the editorial board, which shall have final and binding decision making authority over the publication of the article. Articles appearing under an author's byline do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Seattle Police Officers' Guild.

Seattle Team in Training

By John Carlson, SPD Retired

I found out eleven and a half years ago just how quickly life could change. I was lucky, others haven't been. One never knows where life might take you or when cancer might strike you or someone near and dear to you. That is why I am participating in the Lavaman Triathlon in honor of my son-in-law's father, Dave Carlsen, who lost his battle with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and for our honored teammate, Reilly Hildebrand, age 6, who is in remission from Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL).

I have committed to raising $5600 for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through Team in Training. The money we raise will help fund the necessary research to cure these awful cancers. Leukemia and related cancers will strike over 100,000 Americans this year and over 1000 of those Americans will lose their lives to this disease. Leukemia is the number one fatal disease among children yet it affects ten times as many adults. Unfortunately, its cause remains unknown. Our hope is that a cure will be found through research, treatment and generous donations from people just like you.

As a member of the Seattle Team in Training, I have pledged to train every day, including weekends with team sessions, to meet my goal of finishing the Lavaman Triathlon as well as raising a minimum of $5600 to fund research. Your help gets us closer to seeing an end to the unnecessary and tragic loss of our loved ones. I am asking for your help today with a generous donation to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. There are three ways to make your tax deductible donation; make check donations payable to LLS and send it to John Carlson 3604-28th Ave. W. Seattle, WA 98199 To donate with your credit card, please visit my web site at http://www.active.com/donate/tntwaak/JohnCarlson. Cash and money order donations are also accepted. Cash and money orders should also be sent to my address. Please enclose your name and address so we can make sure you get a receipt for tax purposes.

Finally, please respond as soon as possible so I can get the donations turned in quickly. Your support of me, my Team in Training and The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is greatly appreciated. Your donation will help save lives. Thank you for your help.

My years with the Seattle Police Department were some of the best yeas of my life. I thank each and every one of you for all you do each day to keep us all safe.

A 911 Fists and Cuffs Fight Night?

By Harriet Benjamin,
President, Bacon Bowl Association

Representatives from the Tacoma PD on The Bacon Bowl Board of Directors have suggested a boxing match as one fundraiser for our organization. I am asking for your help. We would like to know if you think this is a good idea for Seattle PD officers, and if anyone would want to duke it out for charity? The Bacon Bowl Board has had mixed thoughts and since The Bacon Bowl is made up of YOU and the SPD, we ask that you submit your thoughts and feelings. All funds raised by the Bacon Bowl Association are divided in half with Seattle PD and the King County SO deciding how to allocate their portion, while Tacoma PD decides how to use their half.

I am willing to do anything to help, except box! Please help us by contacting myself at 935-7700 or 937-8873 or any of your Board members: Lieutenant Bill Edwards at 684-5744; Sergeant Pete Verhaar at 684-7474; Detective Everett Edwards at 227-8895; Officer Vic Minor at 684-8917 for King County Deputy Pat McCurdy at 423-3840. You may also e-mail your Board members or myself at harrietb@johnlscott.com

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Mr. Safety's Corner

By Officer John Abraham,
Safety Officer, SPOG Sergeant at Arms

As your Safety Coordinator I need to bring some statistics to your attention. More Law Enforcement officers are killed in traffic related situations than any other. As of December 25th, 151 officers have died in the "Line of Duty". Of those fatalities, 73 were traffic related. Of those 73 fatalities, 47 involved vehicles. This compares to 63 officers killed in traffic incidents in 2005.

There are several reasons for this increase. Law Enforcement has an increased presence on the streets of the United States with some 900,000 officers, as compared to 700,000 in 1997. This increases the chances of officers getting into collisions. Over the past 30 years, the number of officers killed in automobile crashes has increased 40% with the number of officers shot to death has decreased at about the same percentage.

Why am I giving you these statistics? You are more likely to get into a traffic collision during your law enforcement career than getting into a shooting situation. You drive some 6,000,000 miles a year while patrolling the streets of Seattle. You all know that not all the driving citizens of Seattle are paying attention. Every one of you has a horror story of a near miss. So……how is your driving???

How many of you roll through red lights with just your overheads on?? How many of you roll through a red light by chirping your siren with no overheads?? On a free right turn on a red light…how many of you come to a complete stop?? How many of you look to your right before making the turn? (Pedestrians) How many of you use your turn signals all the time? (Those citizens are not mind readers). If the speed limit is 30 MPH why are you doing 50 MPH?? If the number one reason for collisions in Seattle is following too close…why aren't you leaving a vehicle length distance for every 10 MPH??? How many close calls have you had because you are looking at your MDC??

There is no question that better safety features in police cars would assist in reducing "Line of Duty Deaths". Specially designed seat belts, fire suppression equipment, front and side air bags, more EVOC training, more defensive driving training and 24 hour availability to a driver training course so all shifts can train. But the first step to better driving is YOU!!!

Aim high in steering and look farther than the front of your car. Get the big picture and see everything that might cause you to get into a collision. Keep your eyes moving and watching that pedestrian that might cross in front of you and be ready when they do. Leave yourself an out so that you have somewhere to go when that citizen moves into your lane without signaling. Make sure that they see you. Don't be like me and assume that the citizen that is looking right at you, pulling out of a parking lot, actually sees you. That way you won't get a dent in your car or in my case your right foot crushed (motorcycles you know).
I am quite sure that there are going to be Collision Review Board changes in 2007. I am trying to give you all a heads up and suggest that you all review your driving habits and improve on them.

Drive to arrive!!! You are no good to anyone if you get into a collision on the way to"Help the Officer" or a "Fast backup"! Be responsible for your driving habits. Remember that the way you drive "off-duty" might directly relate to how you drive "on-duty".

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. Take care and be safe!! Remember, your profession is law enforcement; your job is to go home at the end of your shift.

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Retired News

By Mike Germann

New Retirements

There are two new LEOFF I service retirements to publish this month.

Douglas C. Lewis, #4213, Seattle Police Detective, retired for service from the Seattle Police Department on January 17, 2007. He had 27 years and 8 months of sworn service with the Seattle Police Department, preceded by 4 years of sworn LEOFF I service with Walla Walla Police Department.

Doug began his police career with the Walla Walla P.D. in 1975. He became a lateral LEOFF I appointed Seattle Police Officer on May 10, 1979. Doug's police career was varied; Patrol, both North and East, then moving on to Detectives with assignments in Vice, Property Recovery, Special Assault, Robbery, Homicide and Polygraph.

Doug and his wife, Betty, are now living in Rancho Murieta, California.

Best to both Doug and Betty.

Rodney T. Hardin, #4409, Seattle Police Detective, retired for service from the Seattle Police Department on January 29, 2007. He had almost 27 years of service with S.P.D. and other creditable LEOFF I time with other agencies.

Rod's career in law enforcement consists of:

- 1968-1971: corrections work with the Orange County Sheriff's Office in California;
- 1971-1978: deputy sheriff with the Spokane County Sheriff's Office;
- 1978-1980: deputy sheriff with the King County Sheriff's Office;
- 1980 – 2007: detective with the Seattle Public Department.

Rod's S.P.D. career assignments included Patrol, Community Police Team (CPT) and Bicycle Patrol in the North Precinct until 1992. Upon his promotion to Detective, Rod was assigned to Grafetti Emphasis in Juvenile and the Gang Unit, until his retirement. The highlight of his police career has been the great people he has had the priviledge of working with over the years. He might not miss the job all that much, but he'll miss his comrades for sure.

Best in retirement to Rod and his wife, Gayle. His parting words to all are "take care and stay safe."

S.P.M.A. Close to New Agreement??

The Seattle Police Management Association, representing 56 active Lieutenants and Captains, has been working without a contract since December 28, 2005. The membership is currently considering and voting on a new contract proposal from the City covering the fiscal years 2006, 2007 and 2008. A mail-out ballot is currently circulating and the outcome will be known in about two weeks. If this contract is approved, it is possible that the City of Seattle Police Pension payments of some 89 retirees/lawful benenficiaries could increase. IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE NUMBERS AND "THE BEST OF BOTH" (City vs. State), PENSION WISE. Terms cannot be disclosed until the contract vote and authorizing City ordinance (if passed) takes effect. That will all take a least two to three months.

FOR NOW, WE'LL WAIT AND SEE.

Captain Dan Oliver, S.P.M.A. President, and his negotiating team have worked tremendously hard to get this far and deserve every accolade due to them.

For you S.P.O.G. escalator retirees, negotiations continue and there is no news to publish right now. President Rich O'Neill and his negotiating team are burning the midnight oil to get to a new agreement. The last S.P.O.G. agreement expired on December 26, 2006. Patience! THESE THINGS TAKE A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT.

Short Subjects

- Withholding and direct deposit changes: Any Seattle Police Pension retiree wishing to make any changes in their current withholding and/or direct deposit should contact Elaine in the Police Pension Office at (206) 386-1286 for info.
 Every pensioner should be on direct deposit. If you're not doing so now, contact Elaine.
- Annual Reports will be in the mail around the end of January 2007 to all Seattle Police Pension retirees and/or lawful beneficiaries. TAKE THESE REPORTS SERIOUSLY AND RETURN THEM A.S.A.P. Auditors look to these reports to validate pension and medical payments you may be receiving. If you haven't received your reporting forms by the middle of February 2007, call Elaine in the Police Pension Office at (206) 386-1286.
- Retired Officers' Association Annual Dues: During the month of February, please pay attention to getting current with your Retired Officer's Association annual dues. Some of you are on an automatic pension payroll deduction and some of you are paid up lifetime members. YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE IN THIS REGARD. So if you are none of the above, sit down and get a check off to:

 Nick Bulpin
 5020 Brighton Pl
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 Any questions, call Nick at (425) 349-5373 or better yet, contact him by e-mail, if you're able, at bulpin@aol.com

Retired Seattle Police Officers' Association Meeting News

RETIRED SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Board Meeting
January 10th 2007

President Caalim called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM in the dining room of the Four Seas restaurant at 8th S. and King Street, January 10th 2007.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Wald. A roll call of officers was conducted with LaVelle Thresher, Nick Bulpin Ted Fonis, Mike Slessman, Paul Peterson and Dick Rovig present with John Sullivan, Dave Grayson and Pat Munter being excused.

President Caalim directed every one to the Minutes of the December 13th meeting that had been distributed. Joe Tolliver made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Dwaine Coverson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Nick Bulpin gave the Treasurer's report with Ted Fonis making the motion to accept the report and to pay the current bills, seconded by Thresher and passed unanimously.

President Caalim reported that retired Sgt. Paul Garvin passed away at his Auburn home January 5th. He then reported Bob DeForeest is very ill and asked all to give their thoughts and prayers to his family.

President Caalim reported the LEOFF 1 Coalition has scheduled a meeting next Thursday January 18th at the Police Range. The results of that meeting will be announced at the February RSPOA meeting.

A raffle was conducted with two large bottles of adult beverage that were donated by Bob DeForeest (via Mike Slessman) being won by Mary Anne Peterson and Judy Wald.

There being no further business, Don Kelsey made a motion to adjourn. The 33 people in attendance then enjoyed another wonderful lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Bulpin, Secretary/Treasurer

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14, Valentine's Day! Same time, same place. Bring your "Honey."

Februaray 2007 Retirees' Birthdays

Note: In earlier Guardian publications, only the names of persons celebrating their birthdays in a particular month were printed. As space for Retired News is limited, we are returning to that policy. If you need to know the exact birth date of a retired member, please contact the Pension Office, 206-3861286.

Karl Ahl, Robert D." Bob" Armstrong, Judith E. Auve (Richard" Dick"), D. Michael" Mike" Ballard, William H." Bill" Berg, Gene A." Glasses" Birkeland, Arnold P. Bugni, Julien G. Burchfield, Maurice W." Morrie" Carlson, Alfred F." Al" Carmony, Phyllis Christofferson (Norman "Norm"), Duane Clark, Harry W. B. Cole, Donald L." Don" Compton, Robert B." Bob" Condit, Arthur W." Art" Conley, Bill H. Danbom, Patrick O." Pat" Dempsey, Timothy C." Tim" Dillon, Robert M." Bobby" Dodge, Barbara Jean" Jeannie" Dunbar, Margaret M. Ebbeson (Henry D." Hank"), Raymond E." Ray" Eilers, Benjamin L." Ben" Elliott, Danny G. Engle, Maurice A." Maury" Erickson, Veretta A. Farrell (Jerrold L. "Jerry"), Edward J." Ed" Fjerstad, Barry A. Fletcher, Elsie M. Freeland (James F.), James R." Bob" Gillespie, Addi Grimsrud (Dave), Anton C." Tony" Gustin, Polly D. Haley (Dennis J.), William G." Bill" Hallowell, Philip L." Phil" Hannum, Joel M. Hayes, Victor O." Vic" Heins, Charles E." Charlie" Hill, Neil L. Hinton, John N." Nick" Huff, Lawrence R." Larry" Inman, Terry P. Jackson, Margaret Johanson (Benjamin G." Benny"), Judith K." Judy" Kelley (Ronald J. "Ron"), Hugh C. Kelly, William D." Bill" Kroon, Raymond A. "Ray" Lambe, Madge B. Lawson (Arthur J. "Art"), Ethel Inez Lui (Theodore P." Ted"), Roger E. Lutz, George E. Marberg, John L. Mason, Ronald L. Massie, Lillian Joyce Mccoy (Gunner), Donna J. Mcglothin (Frank W.), Donna L Mcguire (Charles L. "Charlie"), Glenn E. Miller, Lawrence D." Larry" Miller, Charles E." Charlie" Mittman, Joseph P." Joe" Moore, Cory J. Ness, Kenneth L." Ken" Nicholas, Gerald D." Jerry" Nikolaisen, Jack H. Olsen, Harold Dean" Dean" Olson, David T." Dave" Orange, Edward C." Ed" Parker, James R." Jim" Parker, Mary E. Ramon (James "Jim"), Jeanette Rix (Ronald), Frank A. Roys, Raymond F." Ray" Schork, Ronald M." Ron" Shelman, Elizabeth J. Skaret (E. Harvey), Ronald C." Ron" Sprinkle, Lynn F. Stark, Elsie S. Stevenson (Stanley N.), Scott N. Sundberg, Steven R." Steve" Sundstrom, Neil D. Swenson, Henry" Hank" Vanderlaan, Hugh P." Pat" Wallace Jr, James R." Jim" Williams, Norma B. Wilson, Gary S. Wilson, Luriene J. Winney (Lewis "Lou"), Gerald D." Jerry" Yates, Richard S." Dick" Zuray.

The Great Outdoors

By Steve Knechtel, SPD Retired

A couple of years ago at the Monroe Sportsmen show, active Officer Andy DePola, retired Detective Jim Yoshita and I ran into an old friend. Norm Reit (pronounced Wright, Right or Rite – your choice) owner of Island West Resort in Ucluelet. We've known Norm for over 20 years and fished out of his resort many times. Norm has been after us for years to come up and try the Spring Blackmouth fishing off the West coast of Vancouver Island and we've never gone so he offered us a free, guided fishing trip and a free night in his motel if we'd come up. Now that's an offer that we couldn't refuse. We talked it over and made him a counter offer. We would take him up on his offer, but wanted to add in two more nights in the motel and one additional day of guided fishing that we would pay for. This worked for Norm so we set it up to arrive on May 10th. Fish the 11th and 12th and then return home on the 13th. On the morning of the 10th we drove to the Tsawwassen ferry just outside of Vancouver, B.C. caught the ferry to Duke's point and then drove the rest of the way to Ucluelet. We checked in at the marina, bought our fishing licenses and then headed over to the motel where we checked in and dropped off our gear. We had dinner that night at the Eagles Nest Pub and then hit the sack early.

Early the next morning we drove down to the marina and met our guide, Dan, and headed out towards an area called "South Bank" which is three to five miles off of the coast. We were trolling for Salmon and the guides only fish two rods so we agreed to take turns fighting fish. Jim brought a new rod that he'd received for Christmas so we used his rod and one of Dan's. We couldn't buy a bite with Dan's rod and couldn't keep the fish off of Jim's. By the time the day was done, we had 25 Salmon to the boat, released 20 of them and didn't keep anything under 13 pounds. It was one of those days you dream about and seldom have. Once we were back at the dock we processed the fish, put them on ice, got cleaned up and headed back to the Eagles Nest for dinner. Norm joined us for dinner and even bought. You've got to love a guy like that! Following dinner and drinks we headed back to the motel for a good nights sleep.

The next morning we again met Dan at the marina and headed out to the same area. The fishing was quite a bit slower this day, which is one of the reasons a good guide is so important. Dan worked his tail off for us until he finally located some fish. Jim's rod was still the hot stick (I want a rod like that for Christmas). By the time the day was over we had 15 Salmon and one Halibut to the boat. We released 9 of the Salmon keeping 6 and kept the Halibut as well. Once we were back at the dock, the fish were processed and on ice, we headed back to the Eagles Nest where we bought Norm and Dan dinner. Then it was off to the motel for a nights sleep before the drive back home.

We had a great time and also learned a lot. The fishing was great, but the weather in May is iffy. The first day we were there the water was rough enough that we wouldn't have taken our own boat out in it (we have a 19 foot Glasply). We fished out of a 24-foot Sea Ray, which handled the water very well. The second day we wouldn't have taken our boat out in the morning, but it had calmed down by afternoon. The point being, had we taken our own boat we would have gotten a half a day of fishing for the two days that we were there. It's really great to go on a guided fishing trip, you learn where and how to fish a certain area (we trolled with flashers and green hoochies) without wasting the time having to learn where to go and what to fish with, but also quite expensive. A guided Spring Salmon fishing and lodging package with Island West Resort will run you $226. + tax per person, per day with triple occupancy. If you have your own boat, you can get a lodging and moorage package for four nights and five days for $199 + tax per person with double occupancy, which would be considerably cheaper.

Our recommendations would be as follows:

If you've got a good rough water boat, May is a great time to fish in Ucluelet. There a far fewer boats and lots of very hungry fish. If you don't have a rough water boat wait until June, July or August, the weather is typically better. Don't worry if you've never been there before, the folks at Island West Resort are more than willing to point you in the right direction and let you know what gear and techniques have been working best. Their number is (250) 726-7515.

If you can afford it, a guided trip is very nice. You have the boat to yourself and you can learn a lot about the area and the techniques. If not, and you still think you might like to try the Spring Blackmouth fishing, consider the Canadian Princess. They offer reduced rates for a package deal including airfare, room and guided fishing during the spring. Currently their rates start at $249. per person/double occupancy which includes two nights accommodation, round trip airfare from Vancouver, two seven-hour fishing trips and all fishing gear. The Canadian Princess Resort may be contacted at 1-800-663-7090.

Last but not least, remember – "A bad day fishing is still better than a good day at work".

Keep a tight line. Steve

Last Ring

Paul J. Garvin, #632, retired Seattle Police Patrol Sergeant, passed away on January 5, 2007, just two days prior to his 90th birthday, in Auburn, Washington. Paul was born on January 7, 1917. He was appointed a "Patrolman" of the Seattle Police Department on March 1, 1944. Paul served in uniformed patrol for his entire police career and was promoted to Sergeant on December 14, 1954. He retired for service on his 25th service anniversary on February 28, 1969.

Paul Garvin is remembered as a thoughtful and respected patrol supervisor who mentored many a young patrol officer.

His wife of 54 years, Chystie Ann, preceded him in death in the year 2000. He leaves a daughter, Irene, and three grandchildren.

A private family memorial service is planned for sometime in May 2007.

Robert G. "Bob" DeForeest, #1483, retired Seattle Police Lieutenant, passed away at home on January 12, 2007 after a long and valiant battle against the cancer that finally took his life. He was 77 years of age upon his death. Bob was born on March 22, 1929. He was a native Seattleite with a strong Catholic education and background.

Bob's original venture into the field of public safety was as a Seattle Fire Fighter for three years before being appointed a Seattle Police Officer on January 2, 1954. Bob was an original and a legend in his own time. Everybody liked him and his gregarious ways. He was S.P.D.'s Homicide Lieutenant for many years. He retired for service on July 3, 1976 following 25 years, including his fire department time. Thereafter, Bob and his close friend Mike Slessman, retired S.P.D. Captain, went to work as investigators for the Washington State Gambling Commission, retiring finally in 1991.

There was no higher earthly calling in Bob's free time than golf and hanging with his golfing buddies. He absolutely loved it.

A funeral mass was celebrated on January 16, 2007 at Assumption Catholic Church followed by internment at Holyrood Cemetery. A reception followed.

Bob leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Millie (Millicent), two sons, three daughters, ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

If you never knew Bob DeForeest, you really missed an experience.

We also want to note the passing recently of "Carr Jacobs," who was a Seattle Police Officer from May 1955 until December 1963.

MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE.

The Ol' Blue Clan Reunion

The 2007 Ol' Blue Clan Ruenion will be held on Saturday March 17th at the Turf Paradise Horse Racing Track in Phoenix, AZ. Doors open at noon. The cost is $40.00 per person. Please include with your check the names of all persons in your party.

The Ol' Blue Clan Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 18th, at Hillcrest Golf Course in Sun City West, followed by a post party at Pat Munter's. First tee time is at 11:00a.m. The cost is $60.00/person. Please include your handicap or average golf score with your check. Info regarding driving directions, rules, teams and post party will be given at the reunion on Saturday.

To reserve your spot for the reunion and/or golf tournament, send your check (made out to Pat Munter) to:

Pat Munter
2820 NE 117th St
Seattle, WA 98125

If you have questions, call Pat Munter at (206) 367-7709

Important Date!!!!

SPOG Membership Meeting
Wednesday, February 28th
at 2000 hours
Complimentary Dinner All Members Welcome

Editor's Notes

By Detective Ron Smith, B/T West



Hats off to the Chief for leaving the comforts of his holiday home to go out and work the street with the troops on Christmas Day! Chief Kerlikowske worked first watch West Precinct partnered with an officer, like many who didn't have the day off to spend with their loved ones. That effort and displayed leadership had to be heartwarming for all of those officers working that day! The thought of that brings back memories of when I was an Army MP working the street at Ft. Myer, Virginia in the mid-80's when then Army Chief of Staff General John Wickham would leave his mansion on General Row and bring by goodies to all the troops who had to work on Christmas Day. The appearance of the general was uplifting to all of the troops far away from home, and I am sure the Chief showing up to work a car on Christmas was a shot of morale in the arms of every cop working downtown. Thank you Chief!

What has your State Senate been up to lately? One would think that maybe they have rolled up their sleeves and are working hard to fix the obvious problems with the Department of Corrections handling of supervised felons. Evidently they are to busy with other priorities, and have been holding hearings to change politically incorrect terms in the Revised Code of Washington. The terms fireman and policemen appeared in some codes, shocking the conscience of Seattle City Councilwomen Sally Clark and Jan Drago, prompting them to illicit the help of State Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles (D) of Seattle. Senator Kohl-Welles sponsored a 41-page bill, which was approved by the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee, striking all of the references to the terms "fireman" and "policemen" and replacing them with "firefighter" and "police officer." Now that those egregious errors have been corrected, to you think they can address the DOC inability to monitor convicted felons on active probation? After three deaths of law enforcement officers since August 2006 at the hands of wanted felons, a fourth, Robert Sullivan shot and wounded Officer Troy Swanson on January 17th, before being shot and killed in a gunfight. Hello Olympia! When are you going to do something? Better yet, maybe these back-to-back-to-back-to-back instances will also shock the conscience of Councilwomen Clark and Drago and prompt them to call Olympia for help. I will be holding my breath!

Until next month, stay safe out there! I thank you for your submissions to *The Guardian*, as we are getting many! Please be patient, as your offering may take a little time to get published. "We can never solve our significant problems from the same level of thinking we were at when we created the problems."- Albert Einstein

Seattle Police Department presents...

2007 Women in Policing Seminar

A career in law enforcement provides choices that are not always simple to make. Finding the balance between work and home, while maintaining your sanity can often times feel nearly impossible. Sound all too familiar? Here's your opportunity to listen and learn from speakers who will share their experience in juggling demanding careers and personal lives. Featured speakers include:

Dr. Kevin Gilmartin
Keynote Speaker

Dr. Gilmartin is a retired deputy sheriff and behavioral scientist specializing in law enforcement related issues. He works with police agencies around the country and is author of the "Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement," a required reading for WA student officers. He has spent 20-years working in law enforcement in Tucson, Arizona. The Department of Justice, FBI and International Association of Chiefs of Police have published his work.

Faith Ireland
Retired WA Supreme Court Justice

Dr. Carol Mowery
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon

Open to all Seattle Police Department employees. This one-day, no-cost conference is intended to enhance one's professional and personal development in an effort to keep a balanced life. The conference provides free continental breakfast, lunch and parking, including a video on flag protocol and giveaways. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required. E-mail edieburke@seattle.gov to reserve your seat today. For more information, contact Ofc. Christie-Lynne Bonner at 206-684-9263.

Wednesday, March 14, 2007 • 0730–1600 Hrs.
NOAA Center • 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle WA

Calendar of Events

Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office
Wednesday, February 14th at 1300 hours

President's Day (SPOG Office Closed)
Monday, February 19th

Keystone Kops Crab Feed
Saturday, February 24th at 1800 hours

Seattle Police Officers' Guild general membership meeting at the SPOG Office
Wednesday, February 28th at 2000 hours

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